

I have two concerns regarding the proposals regarding BPL (Broad Band over Power line).

First: My experience in getting local power companies to correct RFI problems has been uniformly bad. I've had this experience with four different power companies in three states (Oregon, Washington, and California). I have been working with my local Power Company (Eugene Water and Electric Board) to correct a serious RFI problem for over a year now. In my experience, this is typical of the power companies I've encountered. It's clear to me that local power utilities lack the expertise, financial commitment and will to maintain their systems properly. I doubt that any of them will be willing to bear the actual expense of maintaining a BPL system properly.

Second: The current technique in dealing with RFI problems from a BPL system seems to be to notch out the signals over a narrow range of frequencies from the local BPL segment in response to a specific complaint from a local licensed radio station. Although this may resolve the problem locally it won't provide relief to other areas where there are currently no active amateur radio operators. I am an ARES volunteer and work with our local Red Cross chapter. In event of an emergency, it's likely I will be operating from an emergency shelter at some previously unspecified location or possibly from a moving automobile (providing support for damage assessment teams). It's very likely that any local BPL system in the area will not have RFI suppression on the emergency frequencies I will be using. This could very easily result in a loss of life and/or property.

I hope you will carefully consider the consequences of wide distribution of this technology in its present form and act in the best interest of both the licensed radio services that use the spectrum that BPL will clearly impact and the general public that may well suffer by the degradation or loss of these licensed services.

Thank you
Steven Jepsen AI7W